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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
“STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR  
THE PROTECTION AND SUPPORT OF VICTIMS AND  
WITNESSES OF TERRORISM”  
NATIONAL WORKSHOP  
INAUGURAL SESSION  
CIRDAP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER  
DHAKA  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014**

Honorable Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister

Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Mr. M. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Legislative and Parliamentary Division, Ministry of Law,  
Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Experts from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and from elsewhere

... and, most especially, all of you who strive to protect the wonderful people of Bangladesh  
from the scourge of terrorism.

Asalaamu ‘malaikum, nameskar and good afternoon.

Somewhere ...

... at this very moment ...

... perhaps, here in Bangladesh ...

... perhaps, in America ...

... or in virtually any place in the world ...

... forces ... forces of evil, forces of hatred and division, forces of intolerance and bigotry, forces that use religion or populism to sow discord, violence, mayhem, murder and rape are working hard as they plot and plan how to destroy our freedom, independence, values and beliefs, culture ... all that we hold dear.

These forces seek to impose on us their regimen of hate and intolerance.

America knows well the horrors these forces can inflict. In June I visited the new museum that memorializes the savage attacks on September 11, 2001 on the World Trade Center in New York City. The museum portrayed how on a bright, sunny morning the lives of so many were extinguished by the actions of a few who were driven to kill wantonly so they could impose their ideology of hate on freedom-loving people around the world. The victims were people ... people like you or like me ... whose lives were extinguished and sacrificed in the name of hatred.

Bangladesh, too, knows the pain of terrorism. This month ... in 2004 and again in 2005 ... Bangladesh felt the sting of terrorism as a well-coordinated bombing campaign struck 63 of the nation's 64 districts within a single day, as a barrage of grenades rained upon the then Leader of the Opposition and her supporters, slaughtering so many innocent people.

We who love freedom must fight back to preserve our freedom.

There is an old axiom that "freedom is not free." That wisdom is more true today than ever; both America and Bangladesh know from firsthand experience how true this axiom is.

Bangladesh knows this reality from its fight for freedom over 40 years with the sacrifice of so many, as it fought back against those who, only a decade ago, sought to destroy the nation's freedom.

I applaud Bangladesh for its determination to save and preserve its hard-won freedom, to fight those who use fear, intimidation, killing to make Bangladesh a home for terrorism. But these terrorists misjudge the resolve of the Bangladeshi people to defend their freedom. I give high marks to the Government of Bangladesh for its powerful actions to excise the cancer of terrorism from the nation. This campaign's continuing success is a great credit to the people and government of Bangladesh.

However, as newspaper headlines make clear virtually every day, no nation, no people can be complacent as the forces of terror endure and remain determined to destroy freedom wherever possible, including in America and in Bangladesh.

So, we who love freedom must remain strong and vigilant and prepared as we combat those who seek to destroy everything we cherish.

That is what this workshop is all about. Bangladesh understands that an effective judicial system, one that delivers justice fairly, transparently and in a timely fashion, is key to winning the struggle against terrorism. We have heard already about how this workshop shares

international experience and best practices so Bangladesh can develop effective laws and policies to give meaningful protection to the victims and witnesses of terrorism, as their testimony and evidence during investigations and court proceedings are essential to successful prosecution of terrorists. I hope that by the end of this workshop the Bangladeshi participants will have a work plan for how best to proceed in protecting witnesses, including victims, whose participation in the legal process is vital to defeating the terrorists.

I am proud that America is Bangladesh's steadfast partner in fighting terrorism. Our support for this workshop in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime is the latest example of our enduring support for Bangladesh as it undertakes to improve its system of justice. America's partnership with Bangladesh engages on numerous fronts. We partner with the police to help them achieve their goal of introducing a new philosophy of policing, community-based policing; we support prosecutors as they endeavor to create a corps of professional prosecutors; we help judges as they undertake to develop the specialized skills needed to successfully bring accountability to terrorists.

But in the end the struggle to safeguard the people of Bangladesh from the horrors of terrorism can be won only by Bangladeshis themselves. And that is why your participation in this challenging workshop is so important. Whether you come from government, academia or civil society, you are critical in ensuring Bangladesh's continued success against terrorism.

I wish you every success as this workshop continues and as you work together to craft a national work plan that will result in protection for those who witness terrorism.

For the sake of the great people of this wonderful nation, I hope and trust you will succeed in making the nation ever safer from terrorism.

Thank you.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*